

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 PRS-01 H-02

SSM-05 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 L-03 SP-02

SS-15 IO-13 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

DODE-00 ACDA-10 /117 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:EOJONES

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MCANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 032568

O 082223Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 8,

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 8,
1976:

--GOOD AFTERNOON. I HAVE A COUPLE OF ANNOUNCEMENTS.

--THIS AFTERNOON, WE SHOULD HAVE THE TEXTS OF CONGRESSIONAL
TESTIMONY BY TWO DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS -- ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE SUBJECT IS
HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN. MR. ATHERTON IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR
AT TWO O'CLOCK.

--I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION ONE MORE THING.

--THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE SECRETARY
WOULD SPEAK AT THE B'NAI B'RITH CONVENTION TODAY. HE WILL
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NOT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON IS GOING TO SPEAK. THE
SECRETARY, OF COURSE, HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO ADDRESS THE
CONVENTION BUT CANCELLED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO WHEN IT WAS
LEARNED THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD TALK TO THE CONVENTION.

Q. CAN I GO BACK TO ONE OF YOUR POSTED ANSWERS YESTERDAY?

A. YES, CERTAINLY, HENRY.

Q. YOU SAID THERE HAD BEEN SIMILAR INCIDENTS TO THE DIS-
PUTE OVER RIGHTS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, BUT THAT YOU WOULD
HAVE NO DETAILS OR HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT KIND OF THING.

A. YES.

Q. MAY I ASK BY WHAT RATIONALE YOU DO THAT?

A. THE RATIONALE IS SIMPLY THAT, AS I NOTED YESTERDAY,
THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL SIMILAR INSTANCES THIS YEAR, AND
THE LATEST ONE ON SATURDAY. THERE IS SOME DISAGREEMENT
ABOUT FACTS. THE ISSUE IS UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE
ISRAELIS AND OURSELVES. I THINK IT IS USUAL PRACTICE THAT
WHILE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DISCUSSING SUCH A MATTER,
WE DO NOT GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES
OR CONSULTATIONS.

--SO I AM REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GET INTO THIS RATHER
COMPLEX LEGAL ISSUE.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THEN THAT ALL OF THESE PREVIOUS INCI-
DENTS YOU REFERRED TO ARE PART AND PARCEL OF THIS SATURDAY
INCIDENT?

A. THEY ARE SIMILAR, APPARENTLY, IN NATURE.

Q. NOT UNRELATED IN POINT OF TIME.

A. NOT UNRELATED IN POINT OF TIME?

Q. YES.

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A. THEY HAVE TAKEN PLACE OVER -- THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL
INCIDENTS THIS YEAR, AND I UNDERSTAND THERE IS A PREVIOUS
HISTORY OF A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION LEADING TO THIS KIND OF
THING.

Q. SIMILAR MEANS INCLUDING SHOOTING?

A. I AM SORRY?

Q. SIMILAR MEANS INCLUDING SHOOTING?

A. I HAVE NO INDICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN SHOOTING BE-
FORE LAST SATURDAY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN DIFFERENCE OF
OPINION.

Q. DOESN'T YOUR STATEMENT IN THAT POSTED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT CONSIDER THERE IS ANY DEMARCA-TION LINE IN THE GULF OF SUEZ -- DOES THAT NOT INDICATE A DEFINITE U.S. POSITION THAT THE GULF OF SUEZ IS EGYPTIAN WATERS?

A, HENRY, I JUST REALLY CANNOT GO ANY FURTHER THAN I DID YESTERDAY ON DEFINING -- IN VERY GENERAL TERMS, ALBEIT -- HOW WE VIEW THE SITUATION THAT IS NOW UNDER DISCUSSION.

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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